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Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ 97-27

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DISTR. 5 FEBRUARY 1966

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DATE OF INFO. 3 FEBRUARY 1966

SUBJECT

[REDACTED] COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS  
CONCERNING THE 3 FEBRUARY DIRECTORATE MEETINGEO 12958 3.4(h)(1)-25Yrs  
(C)

PLACE &amp; DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON (3 FEBRUARY 1966)

REF

IN 49172

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL:

FIELD REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

EO 12958 3.4(h)(1)-25Yrs  
(C)APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
DATE: FEB 2001

1. THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED AT A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE ON 3 FEBRUARY:

A. IN ORDER TO KEEP CORPS COMMANDERS ADEQUATELY INFORMED ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, MILITARY, AND DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS THE DIRECTORATE GAVE CONSIDERATION TO PUBLICATION OF A WEEKLY BULLETIN. PUTTING OUT THIS BULLETIN WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A POLITICAL BUREAU YET TO BE FORMED. PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN CAO KY AND DIRECTORATE SECRETARY GENERAL PHAM XUAN CHIEU WILL CONSULT WITH DEPUTY

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IN

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IN 49172

PAGE 2

CHIEF OF STAFF FOR POLITICAL WARFARE. GENERAL HUYNH VAN CAO ABOUT FORMING THE BUREAU.

B. KY DISCUSSED A PROGRAM WHICH HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CARRIED OUT IN THE PROVINCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF WINNING STRONGER SUPPORT FOR THE WAR EFFORT. HE WANTS DEMONSTRATIONS ORGANIZED IN THE PROVINCES IN WHICH THE PEOPLE WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO GIVE VOICE TO THE EXHORTATION TO "PRESS ON WITH THE WAR." HE WANTS THIS PROGRAM TO BEGIN BY 20 FEBRUARY. ( [REDACTED] COMMENT: IT (C) EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ORGANIZE SUCH A PROGRAM BY 20 FEBRUARY AND IT VERY WELL MAY BACKFIRE SINCE THE GENERALS MAY FIND THAT THE PEOPLE REALLY WANT PEACE AND NOT WAR.)

C. DIRECTORATE CHAIRMAN NGUYEN VAN THIEU AND SECRETARY GENERAL CHIEU WERE PLACED IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATING THE ACTIVITIES OF RETIRED GENERAL TRAN VAN DON AND HIS FOLLOWERS. PRESENT PLANS ARE ONLY TO TALK TO THEM PERSONALLY IN AN EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND BETTER THEIR POINT OF VIEW AND REASONS FOR THEIR DISSATISFACTION. PERTINENT TO THIS, PRIME MINISTER KY OBSERVED IN PASSING THAT THE GENERALS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO KILL BAO KIM. ( [REDACTED] COMMENT: 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs BAO KIM IS IDENTICAL WITH NGUYEN BAU KIM, NGUYEN BAU KIEM AND (C) NGUYEN BAO KIM, WHO WAS RECENTLY REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN PLANS FOR A COUP TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE 15 JANUARY. SEE FVS-12,522.) ( [REDACTED] ).

D. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN HUU CO ASSERTED THAT HE THOUGHT THE AMERICANS WERE OPPOSED TO GENERAL VINH LOC REMAINING

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IN

~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

IN 49172

PAGE 3

AS II CORPS COMMANDER. BOTH KY AND CO REMARKED THAT VINH LOC SHOULD REMAIN AS II CORPS COMMANDER. KY, CO, AND LOC EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE AT AMERICAN ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE DECISIONS IN SOLVING PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE MONTAGNARDS AND THE UNITED FRONT FOR THE STRUGGLE OF THE OPPRESSED RACES (FULRO). DURING THIS DISCUSSION DIRECTORATE SECRETARY GENERAL CHIEU WAS A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON THE OTHERS WHO WERE CRITICIZING THE AMERICANS.

EO 12958 3.4(h)(1)>  
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E. THE LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR THE FORTHCOMING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR BUILDING DEMOCRACY WAS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION. (COMMENT: IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE PREPARATIONS FOR FORMING THIS COUNCIL ARE COMPLETE.)

EO 12958 3.4(h)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

F. I CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL NGUYEN CHANH THI CRITICIZED PRIME MINISTER KY ON THE SUBJECT OF RAISING THE FARES OF AIR VIETNAM. GENERAL THI POINTED OUT THAT THE POOR PEOPLE IN I CORPS AREA WOULD SUFFER THE MOST SINCE BOAT AND BUS TRANSPORTATION IS FOR THE MOST PART UNAVAILABLE TO THEM.

G. THE DIRECTORATE MEMBERS DECIDED TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY EFFORTS TO CREATE A POLITICAL PARTY SPONSORED BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. TENTATIVE PLANS FOR SUCH A PARTY HAVE BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

H. GENERAL THI AND CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF GENERAL CAO VAN VIEN OPENLY ACCUSED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CO AND GENERAL BUI HUU NHON, JGS DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR LOGISTICS, OF SEEKING WAYS TO OBTAIN MONEY FOR SPECULATIVE PURPOSES AND ALSO

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IN

~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

IN 49172

PAGE 4

OF MISAPPROPRIATING FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THEM, SUCH AS A SUM OF  
SEVEN HUNDRED MILLION PIASTERS SET ASIDE FOR MILITARY HOUSING  
CONSTRUCTION.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
(C)

1. PRIME MINISTER KY SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE  
DIRECTORATE FOR MONTAGNARD AFFAIRS MADE A SECRETARIAT AND PLACED  
UNDER GENERAL VINH LOC WITH HEADQUARTERS IN II CORPS AREA. NO  
ONE RESPONDED TO THIS RECOMMENDATION. ONE OF THE GENERALS LATER COMM-  
ENTED THAT HE INTERPRETED THIS AS A STRONG SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR VINH LOC  
ON THE PART OF KY.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE CONFIDENTIAL REMARKS THE GENERALS  
MADE TO FRIENDS DURING RECESSES IN THE MEETING:

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
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A. [REDACTED] CONFIDED THAT HE WAS SYMPATHETIC TO RETIRED  
GENERAL TRAN VAN DON AND HIS FOLLOWERS.

B. [REDACTED] MADE A  
PROPOSAL IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE TO ONE OF THE GENERALS WHOM HE  
TRUSTS THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO ORGANIZE A  
POLITICAL FORCE WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE FAITHS AND  
GEORAPHICAL AREAS OF VIETNAM. [REDACTED] COMMENTED THAT HE WAS  
CERTAIN THEY COULD ORGANIZE A FORCE FOUR TIMES THAT  
OF RETIRED GENERAL TRAN VAN DON'S ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN SCHOOL  
INTELLECTUALS (HOI LIEN TRUONG). [REDACTED] DOES NOT LIKE DON OR  
GENERAL DUONG VAN DUC WHO IS PRESENTLY UNASSIGNED. [REDACTED] EXPLAINED  
THAT HIS GROUP WOULD BE TERMED A "BROTHERS' SCHOOL MOVEMENT." THE  
GROUP WOULD BE BROADER IN SCOPE THAN DON'S WHICH IS ENTIRELY MADE

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs  
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IN 49172

PAGE 5

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)  
(C)

UP OF SOUTHERN CATHOLICS, BUDDHISTS, CAO DAI, AND HOA HAO.

COMMENT: DID NOT REVEAL FOR OR AGAINST WHOM THE FORCE WOULD BE OR DESCRIBE HOW THE GROUP WOULD BE UTILIZED ON THE POLITICAL SCENE.)

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)  
(C)

3. ONE OF THE GENERALS OBSERVED THAT NO MATTER HOW POLITE THE MEMBERS OF THE DIRECTORATE ARE WITH EACH OTHER DURING THESE MEETINGS AND NO MATTER HOW ACCEPTABLE THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER MAY SEEM TO THE PUBLIC EYE, THERE IS NO UNITY AMONG THEM.

4. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USMACV USIS USAID 2ND AIR DIV  
9TH FLD STA CINCPAC ARPAC PACFLT PACAF.

(END OF MESSAGE)

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